

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00
H-01 NSC-05 /078 W
-----046160 262040Z /70

R 261648Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5093
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 07177

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, MARR, PEPR, NATO, PO, SP
SUBJECT: SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS' DISCUSSION
OF NATO

REF: (A) LISBON 4668 (NOTAL), (B) LISBON 4571

1. THE RECORD HAS ALSO BEEN SET STRAIGHT IN THE SPANISH PRESS WITH RESPECT TO WHAT SOARES DID OR DID NOT SAY TO GONZALEZ WITH RESPECT TO SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO. FOR EXAMPLE, THE MADRID EVENING DAILY "INFORMACIONES" CARRIED A STORY ON JUNE 20 STATING THAT SOARES, BY INDICATING HE "UNDERSTANDS" THE PSOE OPPOSITION TO SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO, CONTRADICTED PRESS STORIES ACCORDING TO WHICH THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS HAD EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE PSOE'S NEGATIVE POSITION. THIS ARTICLE ALSO HAS SOARES SAYING THAT "THERE IS A GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUPPORTING THE POSITION OF THE SPANISH SOCIALISTS AND UNDERSTANDING THE INTERNAL REASONS AND THOSE OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER WHICH JUSTIFY THIS POSITION."

2. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MISUNDERSTANDING IS ATTRIBUTED IN THIS ACCOUNT TO PSOE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY, LUIS
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YANEZ, WHO IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID THAT SOARES "IS NOT CONVINCED THAT SPAIN NEEDS TO BE A MEMBER OF NATO."
YANEZ TOLD EMBOFF PRIVATELY JUNE 26 THAT SOARES CERTAINLY DID NOT EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE PSOE'S OPPOSITION TO SPANISH NATO MEMBERSHIP. ACCORDING TO YANEZ, SOARES DID TELL THE SPANISH SOCIALISTS, HOWEVER, THAT OTHER PARTIES SHOULD NOT PRESSURE THEM ON THE NATO QUESTION AND THAT HE

"WAS NOT SURE WHETHER SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO WOULD BE THE
BEST THING FOR PORTUGAL." EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, MEMBERSHIP, PRESS COMMENTS, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS, AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID07177
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780265-0355
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780621/aaaaaargh.tel
Line Count: 64
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f71bee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LISBON 4668, 78 LISBON 4571
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2211371
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS' DISCUSSION OF NATO
TAGS: MILI, MARR, PEPR, SOPN, PO, SP, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f71bee7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014